

Docket No: 2354/140

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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NEALApplicants: **Graham John Hamilton, Melrose,** )  
**Gerry Daly, & Andrew James Huxham** )U.S. Serial No.: **To be assigned** )Filed: **Herewith** )PCT International  
Application No.: **PCT/AU00/00107** )Filed: **16 February 2000** )For: **ANTIMICROBIAL POLYMERIC** )  
**COMPOSITIONS** )

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
**BOX: PCT**

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

In the Claims:

7. A method according to claim 2 wherein the solvent includes an alkali selected from an alkali hydroxide, alkali carbonate and mixtures thereof.

a1 8. A method according to claim 2 wherein the alkali is sodium hydroxide, sodium carbonate or mixture thereof.

12. A method according to claim 1, characterised in that the solution is heated for a period of between 1 to 1,400 hours, thereby increasing antimicrobial activity of the polymers.

a2 13. A method according to claim 1, characterised in that the solution is heated for a period in the range of from 4 to 60 hours.